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RURAL DISTRICT OF CHELTENHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1960

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CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1960

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cheltenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the environmental hygiene ~~of~~ sanitary circumstances of the Rural District for the year 1960.

It is customary each year to note an increase in the population, the extent is shown by the 1961 census, the population having increased by 37% since 1951.

Generally speaking the health statistics are favourable except the infant mortality rate which is somewhat higher than the rate for the County but owing to the small numbers involved an annual fluctuation is to be expected.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease, a position that can only be sustained if there is full support for the campaigns of immunisation.

The Council agreed to the relaying of the water mains at Littleworth, Winchcombe, and to taking over the private supply at Stanway and extension of the mains in that area.

It was agreed that as far as possible two sewerage schemes would be undertaken each year. The scheme at Gotherington and Woolstone was completed and sewerage work commenced at Swindon Village and Aston Cross, Ashchurch. Preparation of sewerage schemes for Laverton and Dumbleton was in hand.

Except for the re-housing of a few families the Council completed this year its five-year programme for dealing with unfit houses in the district. The difficult task placed on the Council has been completed without friction or hardship to those concerned.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 came into force in August. Planning permission is now necessary before a site can be established and the Council, in issuing a licence, has regard to model standards specified by the Minister.

My sincere thanks are due to the Members of the Council for their continued support and to my Colleagues for all the help and much of the detailed information contained in this Report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1960.

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CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	 81,940
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (Including members of the Armed Forces)	 30,250
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1960) (excluding caravan sites)	 9,348
Rateable Value (at 31.12.60)	...£447,847
Sum represented by a penny rate 1960/61	...£ 1,810

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate		572	298	274
Illegitimate		24	16	8
	Total	596	314	282
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	19.8			
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	0.99			
Corrected Birth Rate (19.8 x 0.99)	19.6			
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	4.0			
STILL BIRTHS				
Legitimate		5	1	4
Illegitimate		-	-	-
	Total	5	1	4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.16			
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	8.3			
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS		601		
INFANT DEATHS (deaths under 1 year)				
Legitimate		14	6	8
Illegitimate		-	-	-
	Total	14	6	8
Infant Mortality Rates				
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births		...	23.5	
Legitimate " " " legitimate live births		...	24.4	
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " "		...	nil.	
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks)				
Legitimate		11	5	6
Illegitimate		-	-	-
	Total	11	5	6
Neo-natal mortality rate 1000 total live births			18.5	
Deaths of Infants under one week of age.				
Legitimate		9	4	5
Illegitimate		-	-	-
	Total	9	4	5
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 weeks per 1,000 total live births).		...	15.1	
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births.)		..	23.4	
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)				
Number of deaths		...	None	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		...	Nil	

DEATHS

	Total	Male	Female
	276	134	142
Death Rate per 1,000 population		...	9.2
Area Comparability Factor		...	1.13
Corrected Death Rate (9.2 x 1.13)		...	10.4

.....

POPULATION

The RegistrarGeneral's estimate of population - 30,250 is an increase of 550 persons on the previous year. At the time of writing the figures for the 1961 Census in available 30,941, an increase of 8,259 since 1951.

BIRTH RATE.

There were 596 live births, an annual increase of 39 making the Birth Rate 19.8 per 1,000 of population and as is usual somewhat higher than the rate 17.1 for the country as a whole.

DEATH RATE.

276 people died, the Death Rate being 9.2 as compared with a higher rate 11.5 for England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Fourteen babies died under one year of age, the infant mortality being at the rate of 23.5 such deaths per 1,000 live births. In this instance the local rate is higher than the national rate 21.7. Nine of these deaths occurred in the first week, prematurity being an associated cause of death in five cases.

CANCER.

Forty-eight persons died of cancer, eight of these, all of them men, died from cancer of the lung,

Death Rates from cancer per 1,000 population

	England & Wales		Cheltenham R.D.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cancer of Lung	0.86	0.13	0.26	-
Other Cancers	1.5	1.8	0.4	0.9

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification :

		Male.	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	-
10.	Malignant neoplasms, stomach	4	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	9
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2

	Male.	Female.
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	15
18. Coronary disease, angina	29	15
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
20. Other heart disease	16	32
21. Other circulatory diseases	3	9
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	7	6
24. Bronchitis	2	2
25. Other disease of the respiratory system	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	21
33. Motor vehicle accidents	6	2
34. All other accidents	5	2
35. Suicide	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	1
Total	134	142

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	16.7	17.7	18.5	19.0	19.8
Death rate (- do -)	11.0	8.4	8.9	9.7	9.2
Infantile Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 year) per 1000 live births)	15.4	29.7	18.4	18.0	23.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age) per 1000 live births	8.8	23.8	12.9	16.1	18.5

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES ETC. ARE GIVEN BELOW

	England & Wales	County of Glos.	Cheltenham R.D.
Live Births	17.1	18.36	19.8
Still Births (per 1000 total live and still births)	19.7	15.69	8.3
Infantile Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 yr.) (per 1000 live births)	21.7	17.64	23.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 4 weeks) (Per 1000 live births)	15.6	12.89	18.5
Death Rate (per 1000 population)	11.5	10.83	9.2

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1960
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	Under 1 yr.		1 - 4		5 - 14		15 - 24		25 and over		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	5	5	4	3	-	-	-	-	9	8
Whooping Cough	1	1	7	9	-	8	1	-	-	-	9	18
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	7	2	40	37	54	59	-	-	-	3	101	101
Diptheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	6	4		1	-	-	-	1	6	6

	Under 5 yrs.		5 - 14		15 - 44		45 - 64		65 and over		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Pneumonia	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	3	3
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4

Scarlet Fever

Again the incidence of scarlet fever continued to be slight and the character of the disease mild when it did occur.

Diphtheria

Thanks to immunisation the district was free from diphtheria as it has been since 1949.

Whooping Cough

Twenty-seven cases were notified, only two of these were babies under one year and no child died of the disease. The response to vaccination against whooping cough is good.

Measles

Although 202 cases of measles were notified, many parts of the district were free from measles this year.

Poliomyelitis

No case of poliomyelitis occurred in the district.

Food Poisoning

Notifications

1st. Quarter	2nd. Quarter	3rd. Quarter	4th. Quarter	Total
-	10	-	-	10

Particulars of Outbreaks

In one incident two members of a family were affected after eating Corned Beef which on examination was found to be contaminated with pathogenic organisms Clostridium welchii. Unopened tins were not infected. The meat came from Kenya.

The other eight cases were associated with an outbreak in an adjoining district, in which the agent was not definitely identified.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation between 1946 and 1960:-

Age at 31.12.59. i.e. born in yr:	Under 1 yr. 1960	1 1959	2 1958	3 1957	4 1956	5 - 9 1955/51	10 - 14 1950/46
Number immunised:	131	267	334	309	352	2440	1488
Total:		4621					

Number of children immunised in:	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Primary	504	672	230	401	368	317
Maintenance	510	465	94	319	380	324

504 children were immunised for the first time, although not so many as in 1959 it compares favourably with previous years and the number of births 596 during the year. The records are of immunisation done at Child Welfare Centres, in Schools and by General medical practitioners.

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

In April 1960 the use of a ~~Pawalint~~ Trivalent vaccine was introduced at the Child Welfare Centres. The vaccine gives protection against Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. In time the figures for immunisation against diphtheria will apply to whooping cough.

Vaccination against Small Pox

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination received during the year:-

	Under 1 yr.	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Vaccination	272	24	13	13	14	336
Re-vaccination	1	-	1	4	30	36

Proportion of children vaccinated under one year of age, expressed as a percentage of the number of births during the year:-

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
31%	34%	42%	38%	29%	52%	45%

Although less than half the babies under one year of age are being vaccinated against small pox, a number of children are being vaccinated in the next year or so.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

It is estimated that approximately 80% of children under 15 years of age have been vaccinated against poliomyelitis and about 50% in the 15-25 years of age group. This protection was offered to people under 40 years in January 1960.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

	Children 0 - 4	Children 5 - 14	All Persons
Respiratory	-	-	9
Meninges & C.N.S.	-	-	-
Other forms	-	1	3

Deaths

Respiratory	Nil
Meninges & C.N.S.	"
Other forms	"

Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st. December, 1960, was asfollows:-

Respiratory			C.N.S.			Other Forms			All Forms
Male	Female	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
66	32	98	-	-	-	14	21	35	133

There were twelve new cases of tuberculosis but no deaths from this disease during the year. Such records indicate the position with regard to tuberculosis at the present time but the outlook for the patient is much more favourable because of modern therapy although people do become infected and fall victims to the disease. Full support is required for preventive measures, maximum use made of the Mass Radiography Service and B.C.G. Vaccination which is offered to children leaving school.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Food and Drugs Act 1938 - Clean Food and Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are in force for securing hygienic methods in the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air. The Food Hygiene Regulations require that clean food should be dealt with only by clean persons in clean premises, using clean equipment.

Food shops and similar establishments are inspected regularly to ensure that the food is wholesome and that the premises comply with requirements.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

Section 47 - Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of Care and Attention. National Assistance(Amendment)Act 1951 - Section 1.

These Acts give local authorities power to apply to the Courts for the compulsory removal of aged or sick persons who are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people proper care and attention.

It was necessary to make three such applications.

One was an old lady in her ninetieth year, who lived alone, was partially blind and had congestive heart failure.

The second an old man of 85 years living alone in a remote cottage and unable to get out of his room because of chronic bronchitis and heart failure.

The third an old man of 83 years living alone in a roadside cottage no longer orientated as to time and place, apt to wander and found with superficial injuries.

At the time of removal they were content to go to hospital.

Old People's Welfare Committee

The Council have set up an Old People's Welfare Committee to co-ordinate efforts on behalf of old people throughout the whole of the Rural District. This Committee has proved most useful, it meets quarterly and is attended by representatives from each parish who report on the local situation.

Problem Families

Arrangements were agreed between the County Council and the District Council concerning a scheme for the rehabilitation of problem families.

When arrears of rent are such as to render a family liable to eviction from a Council house, the circumstances are reported to the County Rehabilitation Officer, Mr. Burtonshaw.

It is found that the main causes of non-payment of rent are:-

(1) Lack of proper budgeting of family income.

(2) Over commitment on hire purchase of non essential household articles.

(3) A general belief that all debts have precedence over payment of rent.

In spite of the obvious difficulties in the work of such an Officer, a successful start has been made to secure the rehabilitation of these families in their own home.

The following table gives details of the cases referred:-

No. of cases	Cases refused after first report	Cases withdrawn after satisfactory report	No. of cases visited
46	8	13	24

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream and pathological specimens are sent for bacteriological analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford.

The laboratory is part of the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health and no charge is made for making use of its services.

Chemical examinations of specimens are undertaken by Messrs. Ellis & Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This Service is organised by the County Council and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness. As noted elsewhere the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Miss Cross, the Area Home Help Organiser, reports that during the year 150 cases received assistance through the Service.

The following table shows the type of case assisted during the year:-

	Old age & Chronic sick	General Sickness	Maternity
New cases	30	41	53
Old cases (brought forward)	16	3	7
	46	44	60

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, Council Offices, Charlton Kings. Telephone number - Cheltenham 55746 or 53179.

Nursing in the Home

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the County Council.

Information is available from the Council Offices, or the Divisional Health Office, Charlton Kings.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES (Gloucestershire County Council)

Apperley	2nd. Wednesday & last Thursday
Ashchurch	Alternate Tuesdays
Bishops Cleeve	Each Wednesday
Dumbleton	4th. Friday
Leckhampton	Each Friday
Prestbury	" Tuesday
The Reddings	2nd. & 4th. Thursdays
Shurdington	1st. & 3rd. Wednesdays
Stanway	2nd. Friday
Swindon Village (Mobile Unit)	2nd. Tuesday
Twyning	2nd. Thursday
Winchcombe	1st. & 3rd. Tuesdays
Witcombe & Bentham	1st. & 3rd. Tuesdays
Gotherington (Mobile Unit)	First Wednesday

PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH UNFIT HOUSES

Housing Act 1957.

The progress in dealing with unfit houses in the area has been greater in the year under review than in any previous year since the commencement of the programme. The Council held two special meetings, one in March to deal with the FIFTH instalment, and one in November to deal with the SIXTH and last instalment.

The reports on these two instalments together referred to 109 dwellings which were classified in Category V at the 1954/5 re-survey or which had been regraded in Category V subsequently. These two final instalments disposed of all the remaining unfit dwellings in the parishes of Buckland, Dumbleton, Snowshill, Stanway, Sudeley, Toddington, Winchcombe and Twyning.

But by the time these 109 dwellings were reported upon, no less than 34 had been so improved by the owners without formal action as to justify their reclassification into higher categories, thus leaving only 75 to be dealt with by the Council. By the end of the year the formal procedures had been completed, including the hearing by the Council of owners' submissions.

Mr. Rosser will be giving in his report a detailed summary of the action taken by the Council in connection with these 75 houses. It is worthy of mention, however, that the number of housing units that the Council may have to provide for displaced families is not likely to exceed 28.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

Stanton Open-air Pool

The pool is well maintained and administered by the Stanton Parish Council. The water, which is supplied by the Cheltenham Rural District Council at a concessionary charge from its public supply reservoir, is treated with sulphate of ammonia and chloros. The pool is emptied, thoroughly cleansed and refilled at approximately fortnightly intervals. During the year under review the Parish Council painted the walls and floor of the pool with a special brilliant blue rubberised paint and this, together with treatment with copper sulphate prior to each emptying, has been successful in inhibiting the growth of algae.

The bacteriological condition of the water continues consistently satisfactory. The last sample taken when the pool had been in use for a fortnight gave the following result:-

Coliform bacilli (per 100 m.l.) - NIL

Plate count 24 hours at 37°C. - Less than one per m.l.

WATER SUPPLY

Part of the Rural District is within the supply areas of the Gloucester and Cheltenham Corporation's water undertakings.

The Council's supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. All the supplies are chlorinated.

Seven samples were taken for bacteriological analysis and two samples for chemical examination; in addition eighteen bacteriological samples were taken from private supplies.

	No. of houses	No. of houses supplied direct into house	No. of houses supplied by means of stand pipe.
Alderton	160	150	-
Ashchurch (inc. Aston Cross, Aston-on-Carrant, Fiddington & Pamington)	454	415	-
Badgeworth(Inc. Bentham & The Reddings)	437	372	
Bishops Cleeve	1214	1203	-
Boddington (incl. Hayden)	89	88	-
+ Buckland (incl. Laverton)	86	79	7
Coberley	82	36	-
+ Cowley (Birdlip public, Cowley private supply)	102	85	-
Deerhurst (incl. Apperley & Walton Hill)	195	135	-
+ Dumbleton (incl. Gt. Washbourne Little Washbourne & Wormington)	174	164	-
Elmstone Hardwicke	65	56	-
Gotherington	141	126	
+ Great Witcombe	32	32	-
Hawling	52	39	-
Leckhampton	1152	1104	-
Leigh (Incl. Coombe Hill)	94	93	-
Oxenton (incl. Woolstone)	55	39	-
+ Prescott	28	23	-
Prestbury	1359	1293	-
Shurdington	517	488	-
Snowshill	74	45	-
Southam	167	167	-
Stanton	94	94	-
+ Stanway	142	142	-
Staverton	112	108	-
Stoke Orchard (incl. Tredington)	116	109	-
+ Sudeley (incl.Charlton Abbotts)	44	34	-
Swindon (incl. Brockhampton)	127	121	-
Teddington (incl. Alstone)	58	58	-
Toddington	120	109	-
Twyning	249	124	-
Uckington	112	108	-
Up,Hatherley	50	49	-
Walton Cardiff	16	16	-
Winchcombe (incl. Gretton & Greet)	1056	1039	3
Woodmancote	323	318	-
	9348	8671	10

+ Private or part private piped supplies.

CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report by Public Health Inspector and Surveyor on the work of his Department for the year 1960.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Department for which I am responsible to the Council.

The activities of the Council have continued to increase and in the succeeding part of the report it is proposed to deal with various duties under separate headings, unless they have already been dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING

The building of private houses has continued throughout the year and it is possible for anyone who wishes to urchase to find suitable accommodation within a short period. The number of completed private houses was 236 in 1960 as against 213 in 1959 and the number in course of erection had risen to 159 as against 91 at the end of 1959.

The number of houses completed in the District totalled 327 and based on an average of 3½ persons per house, this means that 1144 persons have been provided with permanent accommodation during the year.

The efforts of this Council have been directed to providing housing at Bishops Cleeve and Winchcombe. 4 houses are now in course of erection at Bishops Cleeve, 7 at Elmstone Hardwicke and 6 at Prestbury.

The list of applications for Council houses fluctuates in the region of 350/400 and shows a slight increase as against the previous two years.

The occupation of caravans is still a feature of the housing of people in the district.

Temporary Housing

At the end of the year 1960 the Council still controlled accommodation on the former camp site at The Park, Stoke Orchard. The policy of the Council to rehouse the families from this site continued and only 9 families remained at the end of 1960. The buildings are being disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Families occupying dwellings on the temporary estate:-

	1959	1960
at The Park, Stoke Orchard	41	9

The following figures will illustrate the work involved in dealing with this site:-

Year ending:	31.12.59.	31.12.60.
No. of dwellings	41	9
No. of Orders completed by Contractors including disconnection of services	39	66
No. of repair orders completed by the Council's staff	130	74
No. of visits	299	192

Repairs to Council Houses

Repairs to Council houses are generally carried out by

direct labour, and at the end of the year we employed a total of thirteen men upon this work (not including part time of the Foremen). The following figures show the work carried out:-

Year ending	31.12.59.	31.12.60.
No. of houses repairable by the Council at the end of the year (others will be released from Contractors from time to time)	1448	1466
No. of repair orders completed by the Council's staff (an order may contain several items)	1584	1635
No. of repair orders completed by Contractors including electricity and gas	1035	736
Total	2619	2371

No. of Council houses reconditioned (by contract) ... 11

No. of houses overhauled and redecorated externally:-		
(a) By Contract	249	230
(b) By direct Labour	4	6
	253	236
No. of houses redecorated internally on change of tenancy	9	9
No. of tiled surround fireplaces fitted	40	13
No. of defective draining boards replaced	56	55
No. of defective sets of firebricks replaced	20	15
No. of defective firebaskets replaced	20	32
No. of defective firebars replaced	78	85
No. of defective sinks replaced	15	11
No. of defective sanitary pails replaced	6	6
No. of W.C. pans replaced	22	18
No. of defective taps replaced	51	37
No. of defective flush boxes replaced	13	11
No. of defective chimney pots replaced	4	8
No. of defective lavatory basins replaced	6	5
No. of defective W.C. seats replaced	72	53
No. of gate posts renewed	38	39
No. of roofs repaired	162	163
No. of eaves gutters repaired	93	146

	31.12.59.	31.12.60.
No. of visits to Council houses for various purposes	4760	4477
No. of cases where damage has been repaired at the tenant's expense	34	25
No. of applications to erect television aerials dealt with	146	127

Other activities in housing

The year under review saw increased activity in dealing with unfit houses, bringing to a conclusion this phase of the Council's five year programme. During the year the Council held two special meetings, one in March and one in November, to deal with the fifth and sixth instalments. The reports on these two instalments covered together a total of 109 dwellings which were classified in Category V at the 1954/55 re-survey or which had been added since.

These two final instalments disposed of all the remaining unfit dwellings in the parishes of Buckland, Dumbleton, Snowshill, Stanway, Sudeley, Toddington, Winchcombe, and Twyning.

By the time the 109 dwellings were reported upon no less than 34 of them had been so improved by the owners without formal action as to justify up-grading into higher categories, leaving only 75 to be dealt with by the Council. By the end of the year the Statutory formalities imposed on the authority by the Housing Act had been completed including the hearing by the Council of owners' submissions.

The Council's action in connection with these 75 houses is summarised below:-

SUMMARY

Action taken	Number of houses
Clearance Orders	Nil
Compulsory Purchase Orders	Nil
Demolition Orders	16
Closing Orders	10
Undertakings not to use for habitation until rendered fit for that purpose	9
Undertakings to execute works to render fit for habitation	38
Voluntary demolition by owners without formal action	2
Total	75

The number of replacement dwellings which the Council may have to provide for rehousing families from the fifth and sixth instalments will probably not exceed 28.

The Five Year Programme of Slum Clearance

Under Section I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, local authorities were asked to carry out surveys of unfit dwellings in their areas, to submit returns showing the estimated number of such houses, and to make proposals for programmes of clearance extending over the five years beginning in January 1956 and ending in December 1960.

A re-survey of the unfit dwellings in the Council's area was commenced in October 1954 and completed in July 1955. This showed that there were 322 dwellings in the district which were "unfit

for human habitation and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered so fit".

In reporting this fact to the Ministry the Council gave the commencing date as January 1956. The Ministry notified the Council that having regard to the circumstances prevailing in the Rural District Council area eight years was regarded as a reasonable period for the completion of the scheme.

The Council decided to carry out the programme by annual instalments, each instalment to comprise one large parish or a group of smaller parishes. In fact the programme ran into six instalments, the last two of which were dealt with at special meetings of the Council held in March and November 1960.

Thus, the Council's original five-year aim was achieved, despite the Ministry's concession.

As the work proceeded it was found that many owners had anticipated the Council's action and had so far improved their properties as to raise them out of the "unfit" category, without waiting for formal action. Also, a few dwellings not in the original programme had to be added because of deterioration.

The modification of the programme due to these factors is shown below:-

Number of Category V dwellings in the programme submitted to the Ministry	322
Number added subsequently	9
	331
Number deleted as the result of improvements by owners	81
Number eventually represented	250

The Council's action in respect of these 250 unfit dwellings is summarised below:-

Clearance Orders	19
Compulsory Purchase Orders	2
Demolition Orders	100
Closing Orders.	14
Undertakings not to use for human habitation until made fit for that purpose.	66
Undertakings to execute works to make fit for habitation	47
Demolished by owner without formal action following partial destruction by fire	2
Total	250

The next Phase

In January of this year the Ministry addressed a circular to local authorities suggesting that those authorities who expected to complete their current five-year programme before the end of 1960 should make a final check to satisfy themselves that there are no more unfit houses requiring action.

In pursuance of this suggestion the Council instructed me to undertake a re-survey of all Category IV dwellings to ascertain if any of these had so far deteriorated as to justify slum clearance action. This survey is now proceeding and up to date it seems that many of these have already been improved and the programme under this heading is likely to be small.

Housing Act 1957.

A.	Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas but as a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17 (1).	... 16
B.	Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1)	... 21
C.	Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied.	...
	(1) After informal action	... 73
	(2) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	... -
	(3) After formal notice under Sections 9 & 16.	... 22
No. of housing inspections or re-visits		... 907

Improvement Grants

The provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959, have been fully implemented as regards Standard Grants. For a number of years the Council have fully operated the provisions of the regulations regarding Discretionary Grants and there is now a steady flow of applications under both headings.

During the year 45 applications for Discretionary Grants affecting 50 properties and 23 applications for Standard Grants affecting 24 properties were approved. The total number of Discretionary Grants approved since the Council became the authority for dealing with these cases has risen to 352 cases affecting 405 properties and the amount of grants approved totals £123,385 up to the end of 1960. The results have in all instances been very satisfactory and there is no doubt that this scheme has not only enabled properties to be brought up to a good standard but it has been the means of retaining properties which possess features that are not present in modern houses. In addition, it has enabled accommodation to be retained and thus avoided the Council having to provide more houses for the occupants.

Year ending:	31.12.59.	31.12.60.
No. of houses in respect of which Improvement Grants were issued:-		
(a) Improvements	58	65
(b) Conversions	16	9
No. of inspections regarding Improvement Grants	435	592

Building Byelaws

The work in connection with the Building Byelaws is as follows:-

New houses completed:	31.12.59.	31.12.60.
Council houses	17	75
Private Enterprise	213	236
Gloucestershire County Council	6	16
Total	236	327

No. of dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings and dwellings 17

No..of houses in course of erection at:	31.12.59.	31.12.60.
Council	79	17
Private Enterprise	91	159
	170	176

T tal number of plans received and considered	489	553
No. of plans resubmitted	65	80
Total considered by Committee	554	633
Total number of plans approved - permanent	518	559
Total number of plans approved - temporary	3	-
Total number of plans disapproved	33	74
Temporary approvals renewed	19	30
Plans declared of no effect	59	-
Temporary buildings removed	2	1
No. of informal notices sent	11	14
No. of recommendations to Area Planning Officer	340	363
No. of visits to properties and sites	2251	2877

Each plan when received is checked and acknowledged and if there is any discrepancy and time permits the owner's or architect's attention is drawn to this with a view to the necessary alterations being made prior to consideration by the Committee.

Every endeavour is made to inspect work at the following stages - excavation of foundations; completion of concrete foundations; dampcourse; roofing; testing of drains; installation of fittings; and completion.

In a number of cases the owners of houses have obtained loans through the Council under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958, (as amended), and in such cases more frequent inspections are made and the work is closely checked before certificates are issued for payments.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Under this heading has been included the work in connection with milk supply, infectious diseases, water supply, nuisances, disinfestations, tents, vans and sheds, factories and workshops, pollution of streams, inspection of food premises, public conveniences and sewage disposal etc. The following figures show the activities during the year:-

Year ending:	31.12.59.	31.12.60.
No. of complaints received or nuisances discovered	82	81
Nuisances abated	73	60
Complaints not justified	9	21
Informal notices sent	30	39
Statutory Notices served	1	4
No. of premises disinfested	19	23
No. of visits in connection with the above items	373	352
No. of new drainage systems installed	78	86
Visits to new drainage systems	296	235
No. of visits to public conveniences	96	63
Infectious disease visits	39	27
No. of visits in connection with street numbering	93	42

Inspection of foods

The following foodstuffs have been condemned:-

	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Canned fish			4	12
Canned meat	1	0	0	2

	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Canned soup			13	0
Canned tomatoes			11	10
Canned fruit	2	0	22	9½
Canned vegetables		2	10	14½
Canned preservatives			17	5
Sauces			6	0
Beverages				2
Cream			2	0
	4	1	4	7

Fruit juices 4 pints
Tinned milk 31 pints

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	202	-	12	890	254	Nil
Number inspected	202	-	12	890	254	Nil
All diseases except tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	2	3	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	35	3	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	2.97%	-	-	4.15%	2.36%	-
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Total amount of meat condemned =	3	1	11½

Methods of disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned food is disposed of as follows:-

(a) By burial in lime.

(b) In suitable cases by disposal to knackers' yards by arrangement with the adjoining Public Health Authority.

No. of Special Examinations of a Stock or Consignment of food - None.
No. of visits to Slaughterhouse - 149.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Inspections are carried out periodically at food premises and no prosecutions were made.

The number of food premises in the District is as follows :-

Bakers	8
Butchers	11
Cafes	12
Confectioners	3
Fishmongers	1
General stores	42
Greengrocers	7
Grocers	9
Sweet Retailers	2
Hotels	10
Public Houses	44
Factory Canteens	5
Clubs	9

Food and Drugs Act 1955 (Section 16)(1).

Number of premises registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream.	-	-	91.
Number of applications considered and licences issued during the year.	-	-	12.
Number of premises registered for the preparation of preserved foods intended for sale		-	4.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1959

No. of dairies registered.	-	-	9
No. of Dealers licences issued during the year authorising the use of the Special Designation			
(a) Tuberculin Tested.	-	-	6
(b) Pasteurised	-	-	5
No. of Supplementary Licences issued during the year authorising the use of the Special Designation			
(a) Tuberculin Tested	-	-	11
(b) Pasteurised	-	-	10
(c) Sterilised	-	-	1
Total number of visits in connection with the Food and Drugs Acts.	-	-	181

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act. 1960

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 came into operation in August 1960 and this undoubtedly brought with it an increase in the duties for all departments.

Following the coming into operation of the Act the Minister issued a set of Model Standards with respect to the layout of, and the provision of facilities, services and equipment for caravan sites.

When the Act came into force the Council set up a special Committee to deal with this and two important steps were taken by this Committee.

(1) To prepare standards suitable for conditions in this area, such being based on the Model Standards issued by the Minister.

(2) To cause a survey to be undertaken in order to ascertain the size of the problem in this district.

By early December 1960 it had been ascertained that in the various parishes there were 293 caravan sites containing 694 caravans, and of these the owners of 88 sites had already made applications for site licences.

A Conference, at which this Council was represented, was also

arranged between the Planning Authority and District Councils at which agreement was reached as to the various conditions to be dealt with by the respective authorities.

The New Act is a measure welcomed by this Council as for a number of years members felt that the powers and provisions contained in the Public Health Acts were insufficient to deal with this rapidly developing problem.

In the preceeding paragraphs I have described the position as apertaining in December 1960. The information and experience gained up to this date is insufficient however to form an opinion as to whether the Act will bring about all the desired improvements.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

The following figures relate to the activities in this section during the year :-

Year ending:	31.12.59.	31.12.60.
No. of new applications for licences.	39	37
No. of new applications approved.	33	25
No. of new applications disapproved.	6	12
No. of previous licences renewed.	93	37
No. of visits to sites.	357	501
No. of informal notices served.	5	6
Factories Act 1937 - 1959		
No. of visits to factories.	184	152
No. of informal notices served.	7	Nil.

The responsibility for the issue of certificates of 'Means of Escape in case of fire' was transferred to the County Council as Fire Authority on the 1st. December 1960.

See also additional information annexed to this report.

Sewage Disposal.

During the year two major schemes for providing sewers and sewage disposal works were completed. At The Reddings, Badgeworth the sewers were extended to serve this area whilst at Gotherington and Woolstone works of providing new sewers and a sewage disposal works were completed and put into operation.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government gave authority to obtain tenders for sewerage schemes to deal with the village of Swindon and the hamlet of Aston Cross, Ashchurch.

The Ministry also conducted Inquiries into the need for sewers and sewage disposal works for Dumbleton and Laverton and at the end of the year it was anticipated that permission to provide new sewers and the disposal works would be forthcoming in due course.

Samples of sewage effluents were taken periodically at the Council's sewerage works and 16 samples were submitted for analysis.

No. of visits to Sewage Disposal Works etc. - 1746

Water Supplies.

The number of new connections made to the mains during the year totalled 240 and of these 124 connections were made to the Council's mains, 112 to the Cheltenham Corporation's mains and 4 to the Gloucester City mains.

Water Supplies continued.

No. of visits to supplies, mains, etc. - 180

The total length of cast iron and asbestos distributor mains owned by the Council of diameters from 2 - 9 inches is approximately 111 miles. In addition there are approximately 11½ miles of galvanised, copper and asbestos pipes of between ¾" and 2" diameter and 21½ miles of supply and pumping mains from 3 to 6 inches in diameter.

Refuse and Salvage.

Built up areas receive two collections and the remainder of the district one collection approximately every fortnight. This arrangement is satisfactory and has overcome previous difficulties which had been encountered especially at holiday times.

The controlled method of tipping is undertaken and refuse is tipped at Shurdington, Snowshill, Winchcombe, Prestbury and Twyning.

No. of visits to tips etc. - 372

Vehicles: 4 Shelvoke & Drewry 16/20 cu.yd. fore and aft tippers.

Year ending:	31.12.58.	31.12.59.	31.12.60.
No. of dwellings,	9068	9077	9348
Quantity of Refuse collected (approx. cu.yds.)	34500	35500	36500
Distance travelled by vehicles (miles)	35899	35807	37610

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

No. of visits. - - - 109

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 and 1936

No. of informal notices served. - - 1

No. of licences issued to store petroleum. - 92

No. of visits. - - - 113

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The visits and treatments made during the year by the Pest Operator are as follows :-

	No. of premises treated.	No. of visits.	No. of premises inspected (incl. clearing of baits).
Cheltenham R.D.C. premises.	133	382	74
Other premises in the Cheltenham Rural District.	282	764	666
Total.	415	1146	740

Total number of complaints received and visited. 78

No. of informal notices served. - - 2

No. of visits by other members of the staff. 64

Treatment of Sewers.

Treatment of the Council's sewers were undertaken during

May and November, the results were as follows :-

Manholes:-	Treated May 60	Infested May 60	Test baited Nov. 60.	Treated Nov. 60	Infested Nov. 60
Ashchurch.	-	-	6	-	-
Bishops Cleeve.	4	-	12	-	-
Leckhampton	-	-	12	-	-
Prestbury	14	4	18	18	4
Shurdington	8	-	8	-	-
Winchcombe	8	2	12	6	1

LOANS FOR HOUSE PURCHASE

This is another heading under which there is considerable activity. The work involved is first in checking the plans and specifications prior to loan sanction and afterwards inspection of the work to see that it is satisfactory, and certifying payment at the appropriate stages.

During the year advances were made in 56 cases, these totalling £87,570; the total advances to the end of 1960 was 284, the amount loaned being £393,779. These figures do not include those relating to the Bishops Cleeve Housing Association and the Dowty Housing Association.

SUMMARY

The foregoing report deals with the principal sections but during the year there were other fields of activity such as dangerous structures, Milk and Dairies Regulations, Street Numbering, inspection of housing sites etc. These have entailed many visits and inspections.

The summary of the visits apart from the maintenance of the Council's Water supplies, or the Clerk of Works on Housing, Water or Sewerage Schemes, is as follows:-

For the year:	1958	1959	1960
Temporary housing	483	299	192
Council House repairs	4275	4760	4477
Housing Act inspections	943	925	907
Improvement Grants	393	435	592
Building Byelaws	2643	2251	2877
Public Health			
Nuisances, Statutory Notices etc.	631	373	352
New drainage systems	286	296	235
Public conveniences	124	96	63
Infectious diseases	19	39	27
Street numbering	67	93	42
Slaughterhouse	-	157	149
Food and Drugs Acts	317	157	181
Tents, vans and sheds etc.	372	357	501
Factories and Workshops Act	112	184	152
Sewage Disposal Works etc.	1368	1767	1746
Water supplies	282	291	180
Refuse and Salvage	420	336	372
Public Rights of Way	132	162	109
Petroleum Act 1928 & 1936.	136	141	113
Pest Destruction	1655	2061	1950
Miscellaneous Visits	292	219	237
Attendance at Meetings	95	98	90
	15045	15497	15544

No. of communications despatched from the office during the year 3835

The year has again been one of increased activity and I wish to thank all members of the Council's staff for the good work they have done during the year and for the friendly and close co-operation which has prevailed throughout with all departments.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration which they have afforded when dealing with the work of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H. ROSSER

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

APPENDIX

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1960 for the Rural District of Cheltenham in the County of Gloucestershire.

Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1937.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of written Notices (4)	Occupi prosecut (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	54	20	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	83	132	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total....	137	152	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
No defects were found under sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7.					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork). -	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK.

Nature of Work.	Section 110: No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for not supplying lists.	Section 111: No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel.	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil